

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 TAR-01 SP-02

AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00

OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 CEA-01 AF-06

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 /099 W

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R 271624Z AUG 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5472

INFO USUN NEW YORK 2298

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD, ETRD

SUBJECT: UNCTAD EXPERT GROUP ON INDEXATION

REF: KLEIN-SLATTERY TELCON 8/26/75

1. MISSION HAS RECEIVED COPY DIRECTLY FROM PROFESSOR HENDRIK HOUTHAKKER OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY, WHO CHAIRED EXPERT GROUP, OF LETTERS HE WROTE AUGUST 18, 1975, TO SYG WALDHEIM AND UNCTAD SYG COREA. TEXT OF LETTER TO WALDHEIM QUOTED IN FULL AND RELEVANT PART OF LETTER TO COREA IS PROVIDED BELOW FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION:

"DEAR MR. SECRETARY-GENERAL: AS CHAIRMAN OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON INDEXATION CONVENED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD, PURSUANT TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION A/RES/3308 (XXIX), PARAGRAPH 5, I CONSIDER IT MY DUTY TO WRITE TO YOU. IT IS MY IMPRESSION THAT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD HAS TRANSMITTED A COPY OF THE PURPORTED "SUMMARY OF MAIN CONCLUSIONS" OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON INDEXATION AS ANNEX II TO HIS REPORT ON INDEXATION. CONTRARY TO WHAT FOOTNOTE (A) OF THIS ANNEX MAINTAINS, THIS VERSION WAS NOT APPROVED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE

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GROUP.

"I ENCLOSE A COPY OF THE VERSION I DID APPROVE WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT IT BE SUBSTITUTED FOR ANNEX II OF THE SUBMISSION."

"DEAR MR. COREA: THIS IS TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF YOUR LETTER DATED JULY 31, 1975 WITH ENCLOSURES, WHICH REACHED ME WITH SOME DELAY. I AM COMPELLED TO NOTE THAT THE "SUMMARY OF MAIN CONCLUSIONS" OF THE EXPERT GROUP WHICH YOU ATTACHED TO YOUR REPORT IS NOT IDENTICAL WITH THE VERSION APPROVED BY ME AS CHAIRMAN, CONTRARY TO YOUR STATEMENT IN FOOTNOTE (A). ONLY THE VERSION APPROVED BY ME CAN BE RECOGNIZED AS AUTHENTIC."

2. LETTER TO COREA GOES ON TO RAISE SEVERAL OBJECTIONS TO ANOTHER DOCUMENT, THE "SUMMARY OF VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MEMBERS OF THE EXPERT GROUP ON INDEXATION," WHICH COREA HAD APPARENTLY SENT TO HOUTHAKKER BUT WHICH WE HAVE NOT SEEN HERE. CRITICISMS GENERALLY POINT TO DISTORTIONS IN DOCUMENT AND INADEQUATE PRESENTATION OF EXPERTS' VIEWS "USUALLY WITH A BIAS TOWARD DIRECT INDEXATION." HE NOTES, IN PARTICULAR, THAT QUESTION PUT BY CHAIRMAN TO EACH EXPERT WHICH HAD BEEN EXTENSIVELY DISCUSSED AND WHICH RESULTED IN THEIR UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT "THAT THE STATISTICS PRESENTED TO THE GROUP DID NOT PROVIDE ANY CLEAR EVIDENCE OF A LONG TERM DETERIORATION IN THE NET BARTER TERMS OF TRADE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES..." NOT MENTIONED AT ALL, AND STATES THAT "ANY SUMMARY WHICH TRIES TO SUPPRESS THIS FACT IS UNACCEPTABLE." HOUTHAKKER CONCLUDES WITH RESPECT TO THE "SUMMARY OF VIEWS" DOCUMENT THAT HE CANNOT ACCEPT IT AS MEETING THE CONDITION UNDER WHICH HE ACCEPTED CHAIRMANSHIP OF GROUP, NAMELY, THAT THERE WOULD BE A SUMMARY OF THE DISCUSSION; AND THAT ALTHOUGH DOCUMENT IS "UNOFFICIAL AND FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY" IT SHOULD NEVERTHELESS BE EXTENSIVELY REVISED.

3. MISSION BELIEVES IT MAY BE DESIRABLE TO RESTRICT KNOWLEDGE OF FACT USG IN POSSESSION THESE LETTERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMODITIES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, CONSULTANTS, PRICE INDEXES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GENEVA06648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750297-0392
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750814/aaaaamcz.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 JUN 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNCTAD EXPERT GROUP ON INDEXATION
TAGS: ETRD, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006